

A low-angle photograph of the Statue of Liberty against a clear blue sky. The statue's right arm, holding the torch, is prominent in the upper left. A large, stylized American flag is draped across the left side of the image, partially obscuring the statue. The text is overlaid on the flag.

Rocky Mountain Eagle & United We Serve Award Ceremony



***Presented by the Colorado Federal Executive Board
July 20, 2017***

ROCKY MOUNTAIN EAGLE & UNITED WE SERVE

Employee Awards Ceremony

July 20, 2017

Program

2:00 pm	Introduction	Fred Eidson, CFEB Executive Director
	Welcome	Paul Sherbo, CFEB Vice Chair
	National Anthem	
2:30	Keynote	Darlene Barnes, Regional Administrator, USDA FNS
3:00	Awards Presentation	
4:00	Adjourn	

Darlene Barnes, *Keynote Speaker, USDA Food & Nutrition Service*



Darlene Barnes was named Regional Administrator for USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Mountain Plains Region (MPRO) in February 2004, after serving as Deputy Regional Administrator since June 1998.

As Regional Administrator, Barnes oversees administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); school lunch and breakfast programs; the Summer Meals Program; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); and 10 other nutrition assistance programs in a 10-state region comprising Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Located in these states are 30 tribal organizations that she works with to administer the Federal nutrition assistance programs. Barnes manages a staff of 110 FNS employees and provides leadership, oversight and technical assistance for a budget of over \$6.5B annually.

Her USDA career began in 1976 with the Rural Electrification Administration. She then continued with the Department at the National Information Technology Center and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Barnes joined FNS in 1990, in governmental and public affairs at the National Office. Under her leadership, FNS' Public Affairs staff won the Public Relations Society of America's 1997 Silver Anvil Award for its Team Nutrition grassroots information campaign.

Barnes studied communications at Northern Virginia Community College, the University of Maryland and Colorado State University. She is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute's senior leadership program, "Leadership for a Democratic Society." She helped sponsor the Excellence in Government Awards program, which recognizes public servants at the Federal, state and local levels.

Barnes is an avid volunteer with nutrition assistance organizations and, in June 2012, received the USDA "Unsung Hero" award from Secretary Tom Vilsack, who characterized the honorees as "excellent representatives of the 100,000 USDA employees."

She has been a member of Hunger Free Colorado and provided leadership for the first Hunger Summit in Colorado. She is the former chair and current executive committee member of the Colorado Federal Executive Board.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN EAGLE AWARDS

These annual awards are one of the most important forms of non-monetary recognition available to federal government employees within the State of Colorado, and they give us the opportunity to communicate to the public the outstanding achievements of federal employees who have dedicated their careers to public service. Many thanks to the nominators, nominees and our winners – for all you do.

John B. Mavis, Defense Contracting Management Agency - Denver

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR



Mr. Mavis currently serves as Deputy Director of the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Denver. He is responsible for leading and managing 22 operations Teams comprising over 250 civilian employees who provide contract administration, production surveillance, engineering services, and quality assurance oversight for a host of NASA and Department of Defense weapon system programs, spares, supplies and services at over 600 contractor locations throughout a 490,000 sq. mile area including Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and portions of Idaho and Nebraska. He is responsible for 6,500 contracts valued at nearly \$40B.

Mr. Mavis began his Government service in 1982 as an Industrial Engineering intern for US Army Forces Command at Ft. Carson, CO. In 1986, he joined DCMA as an Industrial Engineer assigned to the Colorado Springs, CO, office. In 1990, he became a Program Integrator for the Space Operations Defense Center, a portion of the Cheyenne Mountain Upgrade program, and Rapid Execution and Combat Targeting programs.

In 1993, Mr. Mavis became the Chief of Operations Management at DCMA Denver. He also served as Chief of Engineering and accepted an overseas position with DCMA Northern Europe, England. He spent five years working with DCMA's Technical Assessment Group.

Barry Lipscombe, *USDA Client Technology Services-Infrastructure Operations Division*

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



Barry Lipscombe is an information technology and cyber security professional whose IT career spans more than 23 years, the last 9 years being served in public service with the Department of Agriculture. Prior to coming to the USDA, Barry served as the IT Director for a multi-national contract manufacturer servicing the electronic, automotive, and medical industries.

Currently, Barry serves as the Security Services Branch Chief for the USDA's Client Technology Services Infrastructure Operations Division (CTS-IOD). In this position, Barry oversees security operations for over 40,000 USDA users distributed in over 3,000 state, field, and county offices throughout the United States and its territories. He and his team are responsible for CTS's security operations program as well as vulnerability, risk, and incident management.

Becky Wilkerson, *DOI, Office of Natural Resources Revenue*

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Becky is from a small town in WY, working hard has always been a part of her country roots which has led her into becoming a successful valued employee of the Federal government. What started as a job soon turned to a full time career; Becky has been a part of the Federal government working in Oil & Gas for the past 14 years. Prior to ONRR, Becky worked for BLM. As a "traveling" adjudicator, Becky still goes back and helps out BLM field offices and is called upon often from Industry and BLM for her knowledge and help.

Becky is ONRR's "go to person" and consistently proves that she is dedicated to doing whatever it takes to solve complex and challenging issues with companies. Her focus on solving issues has resulted in streamlining ONRR processes in order to further ONRR's mission of collecting every dollar due.

Becky displays a passion for the many facets of ONRR and is one of a select few ONRR employees regarded as a well-spring of knowledge. Her ability to see the big picture in any given scenario while maintaining attention to detail is superior. She excels at maintaining integrity in her work by doing the right thing even when it is difficult. Becky sets her standards high and in generously making herself available to mentor others, she is a role model for excellence.

Becky Wilkerson has a passion for helping people and sharing her knowledge. She spends her free time with her children and five grandchildren, and loves getting away to the mountains with her husband, family and friends.

Lauren S. Priest, Food & Drug Administration

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



Lauren S. Priest began her federal service working in the Food and Drug Administration's Dallas District Office in July of 2008 following completion of a joint program between the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and the University of Texas at Arlington. She received an MS in Biomedical Engineering (specializing in Tissue Engineering) and a BS in Biology through this program. Prior to public service, she worked in Nutritional Biochemistry and Tissue Engineering research laboratories. Ms. Priest joined the FDA as a Biomedical Engineer to perform the duties of a Consumer Safety Officer or "FDA Investigator" both domestically and internationally. In this role, she was responsible for conducting inspections of medical device manufacturing facilities, human tissue recovery and processing facilities, and pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities.

Ms. Priest worked in this capacity for about seven years during which time she also gained experience working in the FDA post in Beijing, China, and FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), Office of Compliance as a reviewer in the Physical Medicine, Orthopedic, Neurology, and Dental Devices Branch (POND). In 2015, Ms. Priest was recruited to move to FDA's Denver District Office to become a Compliance Officer specializing in medical device work. Since that time, she has worked on several high profile cases working to gain compliance from industry in order to fulfill the FDA's mission of protecting public health. Ms. Priest has also continued to perform inspections internationally allowing her to remain cognizant of changing technologies in the industry and keep her skill set relevant. Outside the office, you can find her hiking or snowshoeing in the mountains with her husband and puppy.

Denice M. Hurtado, Office of Personnel Management

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE



Denice Hurtado has worked as a Customer Support Specialist/Program Coordinator for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Human Resource Solutions (HRS), and Center for Leadership Development (CLD), Western Management Development Center (WMDC) for 20 years. OPM's Center for Leadership Development (CLD) is dedicated to transforming leaders, to better serve the Federal Government. She currently provides customer service support for 47 leadership courses and 1272 participants. She is advancing her knowledge by learning more about their "Learning Management System" (LMS) that helps instructors and participants find new ways to learn, connect and advance. She assists in building education technologies that interface with participants to foster communication and mass notifications, interactions, and services. She enjoys working for OPM/HRS/CLD/WMDC because of the great impact it has on federal employees, both personally and professionally. Prior to working for the Office of Personnel Management, she worked at the Department of Interior as a Payroll Specialist for seven years. As a Payroll Specialist she processed payroll for the Fish and Wildlife Service, Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service and other agencies.

Patricia Sarin, FEMA Region VIII

IMPROVED FEDERAL IMAGE



Patricia Sarin has been with FEMA since March 2009, starting her career in Disaster Emergency Communications (DEC) as a Disaster Reservist. She became the lead Regional Emergency Communications Coordinator (RECC) position in 2013. Since being with FEMA she has provided program support and the coordination of the Regional Emergency Communications Working Group (RECCWG).

As the Region VIII RECC she and her team developed the first FEMA Regional Emergency Communications Plan (RECP) which is a prototype for the other Region's Plans. Pat received the FEMA Administrators Award for Innovation which provided emergency communication support during the 2011 North Dakota flooding. She has been deployed multiple times to Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana for spring flooding serving as an emergency communications liaison and in a coordination role in the State Emergency Operations Center. She has also been deployed to other Regional offices for various wildfires and hurricanes.

HQ USNORTHCOM Overseas Emergency Medical Payments

SPECIAL PROJECT OR ACHIEVEMENT

Pictured Below:

Back Row (Left to Right): Michael P. Frederick, Larry K. Brenden, James T. Parker, Gregory S. Burleson, Robert D. Schmidt

Front Row (Left to Right): Debra L. Bedia, Deborah J. Kelley, Lori F. Markey

Absent from Photo: Linda M. Tookey, Daniel P. Case



personnel financial burden to receive and then to be released from local in-country hospitals.

The HQ USNORTHCOM Resources Team challenged absent DoD policy and found supporting language in 10 United States Code allowing the DoD to establish an Emergency Medical Prepayment Policy similar to DoS. The team overcame significant “red tape”, out-of-date organizational stovepipes, removed “it’s not my job” excuses, and put the health and welfare of DoD’s most important resource, its people, first!

The team authored a 4-Star Combatant Commander Delegation of Approval Authority letter to the Chief of Staff for immediate implementation across the Command. The team facilitated the first-ever joint working group with Policy, Personnel, Financial Management and Legal subject matter expertise from multiple levels of DoD to outline DoD-wide guidance incorporating the OCONUS perspective.

The HQ USNORTHCOM Resources Team's tenacity paid off when it successfully garnered approval from the Deputy Secretary of Defense Policy in February, 2016; granting the DoD to authorize prepayment of emergency medical costs and to formally establish the program. This new policy immediately had positive results because employees no longer must maintain unrealistic personal cash reserves, freeing an unnecessary financial burden, so focus and concerns can be directed on completing their very difficult and dangerous overseas missions.

Dr. Mark O. McLinden & Dr. Andrei Kazakov, National Institute of Standards & Technology

SCIENTIFIC PROJECT OR ACHIEVEMENT



Dr. McLinden holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin and joined what was then the National Bureau of Standards in 1984. His research in the NIST Applied Chemicals and Materials Division focuses on highly accurate measurements of fluid properties over wide ranges of temperature and pressure and the design and fabrication of instruments for such measurements. Throughout his career, Dr. McLinden has researched “new” refrigerants; in the 1990s replacements for the ozone-depleting CFC and HCFC refrigerants were the focus, and more recently, his attention has turned to fluids having low global warming potential (GWP). He is the author or coauthor of more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and has received several awards related to his refrigerants research.



Dr. Kazakov holds M.Sc. in Chemical Physics from Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from Penn State. He has lived in Colorado since 2006, when he joined NIST. His research interests include the chemistry and physics of combustion processes, evaluation and modeling of thermophysical and thermochemical property data, and data science. He co-authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications and received several awards related to his research activities.

UNITED WE SERVE AWARDS

The United We Serve awards recognize city, county, state, and federal government employees in Colorado who have demonstrated sustained excellence in volunteer service leading to significant positive outcomes for their communities. The award recipients have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in recruiting, inspiring, and coordinating groups of volunteers, devoted substantial time and effort to the advancement of volunteerism, or shown a deep commitment of voluntary action to address community needs – all in their off-duty hours as public employees.

Brian McKnight, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office

COUNT CATEGORY



Deputy Brian McKnight has been a valued member of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office for nearly three decades, spending many of his recent years empowering members of the community with crime prevention information. Over the course of his career, Brian has developed close connections with citizens and organization, all in an effort to better the Arapahoe County community.

In addition to his crime prevention work at the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, Brian assists in coordinating two citizen's academies at the Sheriff's Office each year, holiday toy drives for children, and the Sheriff's Office participation in the annual Special Olympics Polar Plunge and Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR). Brian is the past president of LETR and still sits on the advisory board.

Aside from his regular duties, Brian volunteers with the non-profit organization HawkQuest to teach children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol through demonstration with birds of prey. He also is an active volunteer with Special Olympics Colorado and served this past spring as a volunteer coach for the Arapahoe High School unified track team.

Nikki Gwin, Colorado Department of Revenue- Marijuana Enforcement Division

STATE CATEGORY



In 2011, Nikki Gwin founded the non-profit dog rescue, My Fairy Dawg Mother (MFDM), to provide new homes in Colorado for neglected and abused dogs from throughout the United States. Nikki's home is the headquarters of My Fairy Dawg Mother, however she has developed a large foster network to provide temporary care to dogs on their way to their forever homes. Since 2011, her efforts have saved the lives of 611 dogs who were placed in loving homes in Colorado! Over four-hundred of the dogs that Nikki's organization placed have had significant issues to overcome such as severe abuse, broken bones, heartworm, extreme mange, and chronic lifelong medical conditions.

MFDM also provides the funds and medical supplies for all chronic issues for the life of the animal.

Further, Nikki Gwin has personally provided her own loving home for a number of dogs who could not be adopted due to old age, terminal medical problems, or extreme impairment resulting from abuse. MFDM prioritizes finding optimal matches that best serve both the humans, and the dogs. The non-profit has even found the perfect match for children with autism and cerebral palsy allowing the children to forge powerful and life-changing bonds with rescued dogs!

Mary Cast, US Geological Survey

FEDERAL CATEGORY



Over her 30-plus-year career at the USGS, in addition to working as a chemist at the National Water Quality Laboratory, Mary Cast worked for the Branch of Paleontology and Stratigraphy cataloging the Survey's collection of trilobites, volunteered as a field assistant, and served as the Central Region's Firearms Manager for several years. She also volunteered as a facilitator for the Colorado District (Water Resources Division) and took on the task of organizing several poster sessions at multiple Rocky Mountain Analytical Chemistry conferences.

Her volunteer career also has a varied scope. Mary volunteered at a local middle school for many years as the yearbook editor. She also created posters for the drama and music department productions. For the past several years, she has been on the Advisory Board at a local high school with a focus on science and math (STEM). She is one of the mock interviewers and a Capstone judge at the school. Through her son, she became active in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the official all-volunteer civilian auxiliary of the US Air Force. She commands a cadet squadron in the Colorado Wing (COWG) as well as serves as the Director of Aerospace Education for the Colorado Wing. Over the past seven years with CAP, she has worked several disaster relief efforts, provided assistance at various charity events, helped with CAP's efforts at the Governor's inauguration, organized and worked several COWG conferences and served as an instructor and escort at many cadet and senior member activities throughout Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region. Although she became involved because of her son, the leadership, science, and emergency services opportunities that CAP offers its members and the civic involvement that CAP has in the community at large has kept her a committed volunteer.

COLORADO FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Communication, Coordination, & Collaboration ***Cornerstone for Strategic Partnering in Government***

Vision: *Be a catalyst for better government*

Mission: *Increase the effectiveness of the federal government by strengthening coordination of government activities*

Guiding Principles: *Service / Integrity / Excellence*

Federal Executive Boards (FEBs) were established by Presidential Directive in 1961 to be communication conduits from The White House and Washington DC to the heads of federal field offices in the geographic region served by the FEB. The President directed the head of every Executive Branch Agency to be the official member of the FEB so they could collaborate and create partnerships with their peers to strategically address common issues and management challenges to better meet agency missions and goals.

The Colorado Federal Executive Board (CFEB) is one of twenty-eight boards across the United States and serves ~53,000 civilian federal employees at over 300 field offices throughout the state and 40,000 military personnel at the six military installations in Colorado.

The CFEB is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of federal executives that volunteer their time and expertise to work for the greater good of the federal community, our partners and stakeholders, and the citizens we proudly serve.

2017 CFEB Executive Committee

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Paul Sherbo, CFEB First Vice Chair, VA

Nancy Dagrani, CFEB Second Vice Chair, FEMA Region VIII

Jeff Hinson, CFEB Immediate Past Chair, HHS, CMS

Darlene Barnes, USDA FNS

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